

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 COME-00 OIC-04 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 SIL-01 /244 R

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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TAGS: ETRD, GATT, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: GATT/UNCTAD TRADE CENTER MEETINGS, JAN. 7-11
15-18

REF: (A) STATE 57095, (B) GENEVA 6728

1. WE SEE LITTLE MERIT IN PROPOSAL BY JOINT ADVISORY GROUP
(JAG) CHAIRMAN MOEREL CALLING FOR BIENNIAL RATHER THAN
ANNUAL MEETING OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE JAG. TECHCOM
SERVES IN EFFECT AS STEERING GROUP FOR ITC AND AS SUCH IS
PRINCIPAL VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE
ABLE TO INFLUENCE ITC POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. THIS IS PAR-
TICULARLY TRUE WITH RESPECT TO THOSE GOVERNMENTS, INCLUD-
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ING USG, WHICH HAVE STRONG INTEREST IN ITC OPERATIONS AND

ARE MAJOR SOURCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT. SHIFTING TO BIENNIAL SESSIONS COULD SERIOUSLY IMPAIR THIS POLICY-SETTING FUNCTION OF TECHCOM AND THEREBY LESSEN POLICY CONTRIBUTIONS OF PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS.

2. ALTHOUGH ITC IN KEEPING WITH UN PROCEDURES HAS SWITCHED TO BIENNIAL PROGRAMMING, THIS DOES NOT IN OUR VIEW OBVIATE NEED FOR ANNUAL TECHCOM/JAG SESSIONS. ITC IS STILL RELATIVELY YOUNG ORGANIZATION WHOSE ROLES AND MANDATE ARE CONSTANTLY BEING REDEFINED AND EXPANDED. WHILE WE IN GENERAL HAVE SUPPORTED THIS EXPANSION, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT IT BE DIRECTED INTO AREAS OF MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS

AND THAT IT NOT OUTSTRIP GROWTH OF CENTER'S EXPERTISE AND OVERALL CAPABILITIES. THIS, WE BELIEVE, CAN BEST BE AS*URED THROUGH ANNUAL TECHCOM/JAG SCRUTINY.

3. SUGGESTION BY MOEREL THAT ITC BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE PARTICIPANTS IN TECHCOM MEETINGS (PARA 3, REF B) IS LIKEWISE UNACCEPTABLE TO USG. THIS WOULD IN EFFECT ALLOW ITC SECRETARIAT TO SELECT THOSE WHO WOULD EXERCISE OVERSIGHT OF ITS ACTIVITIES. IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE A MEMBER WHO IS BEHOLDEN TO THE SECRETARIAT FOR HIS SEAT ON THE TECHCOMM EXERCISING COMPLETE OBJECTIVITY IN EVALUATING SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITY. MOREOVER, IF TECHCOMM MEMBERS WERE TO SERVE IN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES RATHER THAN AS REPS OF GOVERNMENTS, THIS WOULD AT MINIMUM SERIOUSLY IMPAIR OPPORTUNITY FOR POLICY INPUT BY GOVERNMENTS NOTED PARA 1 ABOVE. IF SUCH ARRANGEMENT WERE BASED ON NOTHING MORE THAN ORAL ASSURANCES OF ITC SECRETARIAT, WE WOULD HAVE NO GUARANTEE THAT U.S. EXPERT WILL ALWAYS BE INVITED TO SERVE.

4. WE CONCUR WITH MISSION RE APPROPRIATENESS OF ESTABLISHING VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP FOR JAG AND AGREE THAT ARMOND FRAZAO OF BRAZIL IS CANDIDATE WE COULD SUPPORT. HE IS EXPERIENCED IN ITC MATTERS AND FAVORABLY KNOWN BY SOME HERE IN WASHINGTON. WITH RESPECT TO TECHCOM CHAIRMANSHIP, WE WISH ONLY TO NOTE IMPORTANCE OF SELECTING WELL-QUALIFIED CANDIDATE GIVEN KEY ROLE HE CAN PLAY IN DETERMINING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUTCOME OF MEETING. MISSION SHOULD SEEK EARLY AGREEMENT ON SUITABLE CANDIDATE.

5. MISSION IS REQUESTED *O MAKE ABOVE*VIEWS KNOWN AS APPROPRIATE AND TO SEEK SUPPORT OF LIKEMINDED DELEGATIONS IN FEW REMAINING DAYS PRIOR TO CONVENING OF TECHCOMM ON JANUARY 7.

6. AS TO MOEREL'S CONTENTION, WE SEE NO NECESSARY CONTRADICTION BETWEEN EFFORTS TO KEEP COSTS OF MEETINGS WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS ON THE ONE HAND AND HOLDING TECHCOMM MEETINGS WITH SUFFICIENT FREQUENCY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE GUIDANCE TO ITC SECRETARIAT WITH HOPEFUL RESULT OF ENHANCING COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF ITC. WE BELIEVE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF TECHCOMM CONDUCTED ON BUSINESS-LIKE BASIS CAN MEET BOTH CONCERNS. RUSH

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